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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SHUM

SUBJECT: NEW HUMAN RIGHTS NGO - LAWYERS COMMITTEE FOR
INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS.

1. THE LAWYERS COMMITTEE FOR INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS,
FOUNDED BY THE INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS AND
THE COUNCIL OF NEW YORK LAW ASSOCIATES, HAS BEEN ES-
TABLISHED TO SERVE AS A LEGAL RESOURCE CENTER FOR HUMAN
RIGHTS ORGANIZATIONS IN NEW YORK CITY. IT UTILIZES THE
SERVICES OF VOLUNTEER ATTORNEYS BY ASSIGNING TO THEM
SPECIFIC HUMAN RIGHTS CASES FOR REDRESS.

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2. ITS FIRST NEWSLETTER (JULY) REPORTS THAT ITS FIVE
PRINCIPAL AREAS OF CONCERN ARE "REPRESENTATION OF IN-
DIVIDUAL CLIENTS SUCH AS THOSE SEEKING EXIT VISAS,
FAMILY REUNIFICATION, OR POLITICAL REFUGEES SEEKING ASYLUM
IN THE UNITED STATES; PREPARATION AND FILING OF COMPLAINTS
TO INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS DETAILING HUMAN RIGHTS
VIOLATIONS IN PARTICULAR COUNTRIES; INTERVENTION IN

DOMESTIC CASES WHERE INTERNATIONAL LAW SHOULD BE APPLIED;
UTILIZATION OF DOMESTIC LAWS TO HELP PROMOTE HUMAN RIGHTS
IN FOREIGN COUNTRIES; AND REPRESENTATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS
ORGANIZATIONS AT VARIOUS SPECIAL CONFERENCES AND SESSIONS

OF THE UNITED NATIONS. THE LAWYERS COMMITTEE ALSO SPON-
SORS A SERIES OF TRAINING SESSIONS AND WORKSHOPS CONDUCTED
BY INTERNATIONAL LEGAL SCHOLARS AND PRACTITIONERS. THESE
SESSIONS ARE INTENDED PRIMARILY TO ASSIST THE VOLUNTEER
ATTORNEYS IN HANDLING INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS CASES,
BUT WILL ALSO BE USEFUL IN DEVELOPING AND REFINING
STRATEGIES FOR FUTURE PROJECTS."

3. RECENT ACTIVITIES OF THE COMMITTEE HAVE INCLUDED (A)
EFFORTS TO OBTAIN PERMISSION FOR THE VAZCHENKO FAMILY TO
LEAVE THE SOVIET UNION. A JULY LETTER FROM THE AMERICAN
BAPTIST CHURCHES, REAFFIRMING THEIR WILLINGNESS TO SPONSOR
THE VAZCHENKOS IN THE U.S. WAS TRANSMITTED BY THE
COMMITTEE TO THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE; (B) PREPARATION
OF A REPORT ON THE HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION IN ARGENTINA
WITH PARTICULAR EMPHASIS ON THE "EROSION OF CONSTITUTIONAL
AUTHORITY." THE COMMITTEE IS SELECTING SPECIFIC CASES
EVIDENCING "HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS WITHIN THE CONTEXT
OF APPLICABLE ARGENTINE AND INTERNATIONAL LAW;" (C)
TESTIMONY ON THE CURRENT HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION IN
UGANDA AT HEARINGS OF THE FOREIGN ECONOMIC POLICY
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SUBCOMMITTEE OF THE SENATE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE
WHICH WAS CONSIDERING LEGISLATION ON EMBARGOING TRADE
WITH UGANDA.

4. THE COMMITTEE IS CO-CHAIRLED BY ATTORNEYS JEROME J.
SHESTACK, PRESIDENT OF THE INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE FOR
HUMAN RIGHTS, AND JAMES SILKENAT, CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL
OF NEW YORK LAW ASSOCIATES. ITS DIRECTOR IS MICHAEL
POSNER. THE COMMITTEE IS FUNDED BY THE FORD FOUNDATION
AND ROCKEFELLER BROTHERS FUND. CHRISTOPHER

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